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Resolution 1986-02-11 Reinstatement of the Accelerated Research Program

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Resolution No. 1

Impact of Environmental Contamination on Fish and Wildlife Species Caused by the Chernobyl Accident

WHEREAS, the unfortunate, recent reactor accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station provides an historic opportunity to investigate short- and long-term biological impacts of radioactive contamination on fish and wildlife species;

WHEREAS, reports from European countries indicate that radioactive contamination has occurred in a number of habitats; and

WHEREAS, migratory species may be contaminated by radioactive material and subsequently move across international borders;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly urges concerned governments and agencies including the International Atomic Energy Agency, to monitor and study contamination and impacts to fish and wildlife, especially migratory species covered by international treaties, that may be affected by this radioactive contamination.

Resolution No. 2

Reinstatement of the Accelerated Research Program

WHEREAS, the need for consistent funding for research and management of migratory game birds other than waterfowl has long been recognized;

WHEREAS, the 1967-82 Accelerated Research Program (ARP), a Congressionally-funded \$250,000 annual addition to the USFWS budget, financed more than 130 research projects on doves, bandtailed pigeons, woodcock, sandhill cranes, snipe, rails, gallinules, and coots; produced more than 340 publications; resulted in more enlightened management of these species; and is continuing to create additional recreational opportunities for the general public;

WHEREAS, ARP funds were often matched by State wildlife agencies and universities, ARP was one of the most cost-effective USFWS programs on record;

WHEREAS, a 1985 survey of all 50 State wildlife agencies revealed 47 States still had migratory shore and upland game bird research needs that had not been addressed to date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies strongly supports the re-establishment of ARP (or a similar program to address "webless" migratory game bird needs) as a Congressionally-funded \$350,000 annual modification to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) budget.